The Mission Inn Hotel Architecture Series
The International Rotunda Wing:
Iron Initials

HISTORY

NOTE: See the Mission Inn Hotel Architecture Series: The International Rotunda Wing: Ceramic Tiles – History

Metal Initials and Ceramic Tiles

Aside from its unique architectural design, the Rotunda Wing hosts a variety of unique elements including metal railings inscribed with initials and unique ceramic tiles (NOTE: See week 4 activity for more information on the tiles).

Metal Initials

At the time the Rotunda was built historical figures associated with the California Missions were considered some of California’s first heroes. Frank Miller wanted to honor these heroes by incorporating them into the Rotunda Wing.

On the second and third floor, important figures in early California and Mission history are represented by their initials.
On the fourth floor, the metal railing contains initials from 11 of the 21 California Missions, ten are missing. It is unknown why they are absent from the railing.

Here is information about a few of these iron initials:

**Second Floor**

- **PJS: Padre Junípero Serra** (1713-1794), played a large role in the creation of the California Mission system. “He was appointed father president of the Baja California Missions.”

- **PFP: Padre Francisco Palóu** (1723-1789), was a student and friend of Father Junípero Serra and succeeded him as father president. One of his most important contributions to history was his detailed account of the life of his mentor, Father Junípero Serra.

- **JRC: Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo**, lead “the first European expedition to explore what is now the West Coast of the United States”.

**Third Floor**

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2 Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 8
3 Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 9
• **PJBS:** *Padre José Bernardo Sanchez* (1778-1883), he served the California Missions for 30 years and was father president from 1828-1831.⁴

*Fourth Floor:*

• **SLRF:** Stands for *Mission San Luis Rey de Francia*, which was founded in 1798; is in current day Oceanside, CA. The existing church is “considered one of the most beautiful”.⁵

• **RA:** *Mission San Rafael, Arcángel*, which was founded in 1817. It was used as a “sanatorium for Indians from Mission San Francisco”.⁶

• **SFS:** *Mission San Francisco Solano*, which was founded in 1823. The last California Mission, which was eventually incorporated into Sonoma State Historic Park.⁷

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⁴ Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 8
⁵ Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 5
⁶ Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 5
⁷ Mission Inn Foundation. 2015, p. 5
## Initials by Floor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fourth Floor</th>
<th>Third Floor</th>
<th>Second Floor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SLRF:</strong> San Luis Rey de Francia</td>
<td><strong>PJBS:</strong> Padre José Bernardo Sanchez</td>
<td><strong>PFP:</strong> Padre Francisco Palóu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SI:</strong> Santa Inés, Virgen y Mártil</td>
<td><strong>PFGD:</strong> Padre Francisco García Diego y Moreno</td>
<td><strong>PFFL:</strong> Padre Fermín Francisco de Lasuén</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SFS:</strong> San Francisco Solano</td>
<td><strong>PJJJ:</strong> Padre José Joaquin Jimeno</td>
<td><strong>PET:</strong> Padre Estevan Tapis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RA:</strong> San Rafael, Arcángel</td>
<td><strong>PFG:</strong> Padre Francisco Gomez</td>
<td><strong>PJS:</strong> Padre José Señan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PC:</strong> La Purísima Concepción de María Santísima</td>
<td><strong>PMP:</strong> Padre Mariano Payeras</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SC:</strong> La Exaltación de la Santa Cruz</td>
<td><strong>PVS:</strong> Padre Vincente de Sarria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NSS:</strong> Nuestra Señora de la Soledad</td>
<td><strong>PND:</strong> Padre Narciso Durán</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SJG:</strong> Mission del Gloriosísimo Patriarca San José</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PJS:</strong> Padre Junípero Serra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SJB:</strong> San Juan Bautista</td>
<td><strong>VN de B:</strong> Vasco Núñez de Balboa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SMA:</strong> San Miguel, Arcángel</td>
<td><strong>JRC:</strong> Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SFRE:</strong> San Fernando Rey de España</td>
<td><strong>SV:</strong> Sebastian Vizcaíno</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>G de P:</strong> Gaspar de Portolá</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>JB de A:</strong> Juan Bautista de Anza</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACTIVITY

Today we are going to create and decorate our initials to place on our wall at home!

Materials:

• 1-3 sheets of blank paper
• Empty Cereal Box (Could use a cardboard box)
• Scissors
• Hot Glue (Be sure to have an adult assist) or Regular Glue
• Crayons/Markers
• Items to decorate initials (Yarn, craft sticks and printed design show in example)

Directions:

1. Draw large uppercase initials on paper.
   a. **PRO TIP:** Using Microsoft word fonts print out large letter style to cut out.
      i. Font used in image: “Georgia Pro Black”
      ii. Font size: 600
      iii. Font Color Fill: None
      iv. Font Color Outline: Black

2. Cut out initials.
3. Unfold the cereal box, then trace initials on the cereal box.

4. Cut out initials from the cereal box.

5. Decorate initials as desired

6. Share your initials with us!
Content Resources

If you are interested in learning more history about the International Rotunda and the Ceramic Tiles, check out the resources below.
